

COMMON COUNCIL

May 7, 2014

The Common Council, City of Madison, Indiana, met in regular session at 5:30 PM at City Hall. Mayor Welch opened the meeting with The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present; Jones, Berry, Henderson, Lee, Backus and Hodges (6-1); Kellems arrived at 6:02pm.

MINUTES: Hodges made a motion to approve the April 22, 2014 minutes, seconded by Berry. Motion carried (6-0).

RESOLUTIONS OR BILLS:

Ordinance No. 2014-6, Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Madison, Indiana. This Ordinance is sponsored by Councilman Henderson.

Resolution No. 2014-7 Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Madison, Indiana. This Ordinance is sponsored by Councilman Henderson.

REPORTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS FROM STANDING/SELECT COMMITTEES OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Hodges reported that The Fire and Health Committee met on April 23, 2014 and are working on ideas for the sidewalk ordinance.

Lee reported that he drove his district to see how recycling pickup went and he feels it went rather smoothly.

Henderson reported that in his district, there were several that had recycling bagged the old way and the guys on the truck were emptying the bags into the truck.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Mark Johnson reported that the Boulder Shell demolition is complete and ready to sell. He said he is having weekly contact with the shopping center group. He said that dumping has been going on behind the building and there are doors open. He stated that the demolition at 213 Craven Street is scheduled for Monday.

Lee asked if the former restaurant by the shopping center is included.

Johnson stated it was.

Andrew Forrester reported that the free wireless internet will be expanding in the downtown area starting at the end of the month. He said that the city has a partnership with Galena Garlic, Cinergy Metronet, and Microdome to get wireless service at the Broadway Fountain. He said that when Crystal Beach opens, hopefully there will be wireless internet there. He said they are looking at the Rucker Sports Complex and Main Street, but those are bigger projects. He stated that the dates for Movies in The Park have been set and they are: June 13th at MCHS football field and they are teaming up with Relay For Life, July 1st at Bicentennial Park the movie Madison will be shown, August 1st the location is to be determined and October 3rd at Hanover College to attempt to make this a Hanover/Madison connection day. He said that four information kiosks will be coming soon to downtown with maps and information about Madison. He

said the locations will be Jefferson and Main Streets, close to the restrooms at Bicentennial Park, the Comfort Station and Mill and Main Streets. He said this is a benefit from the streetscape mitigation money. He stated that the Mayor's Youth Council will be at the next council meeting.

Backus asked for an update on the alley project.

Forrester stated they are working with the consultants and will be doing a survey of all the potential alleys next week. He said a stakeholder group will be formed and then a survey will be done and designs will be submitted, reviewed and then presented to the public for input.

Doug Vest reported that in the council's packet, he gave them information on the number of trash customers and the number of bins that were given out. He said the biggest issue is the bags and they are trying to be lenient. He said that at this time, Rumpke only has a market for plastic bottles and jugs. He went on to say that yogurt cups and butter tubs and such can't be recycled at this time. There will be growing pains.

Hodges thanked Doug and his staff for the good work they did on the recycling day kick off. She said she knew it was a long day for all. She asked how the people that are still using bags will be notified that they should not be.

Vest stated that they took addresses of the homes that were not in compliance and are open to ideas as to how to let people know.

Hodges suggested that they send a letter.

Lee stated that he thinks people do not understand, so going slowly and being lenient is the way to go.

Henderson stated door hangers may be a good idea,

Welch stated that a lot of items that were in the clear bags were ending up at the transfer station because they were not recyclable.

Dave Stucker reported that May 19th will be opening night at Rucker Sports Complex and everyone is invited. He said that a new program of Little League Golf has been started. He said it is for boys and girls ages 7 to 14. He thanked the title sponsors Mary and Ron Chandler from McDonalds who have always stepped up to support the youth. He said the application deadline is May 30th and the first work out will be June 4th. He also thanked Jeff Bridgford and Scott Davidson for getting the program started. He said the men's softball league is struggling to get participation so the deadline has been pushed back while teams are being sought. He said they are having a Starving Artist Show at the Brown Gym on June 28th. He said they have some old football helmets that have been taken apart, and will be available to purchase and decorate as a fundraiser. He said that they are having another fundraiser in conjunction with the regatta June 30th, called a rubber duck regatta. They are going to send rubber ducks down the slide. On June 30th at 6:15pm there is going to be a Crystal Beach Swimming Pool Party to kick off the Madison Regatta Festival. He said there is going to be a night swim from 6-9 pm and have the duck race.

Berry stated that he thinks the Little League Golf is a great idea and he talked to Jeff Bridgford about it over the weekend. He said the course is in great shape and complimented the guys that work on the course.

Stucker stated that the program is open to kids that have never hit a golf ball on up.

Lee stated that this is a great program.

Stucker said that Jeff Bridgford brought the idea to him at the end of last year. He also noted that if anyone has clubs or golf balls that they would like to donate to the program, they will take them.

Hodges thanked Stucker for working to make the pool more available for adults.

Stucker stated that he has a meeting on Monday with the water aerobics group.

Brian Jackson gave an update that the Cragmont Street/Terrace Drive Sewer line repairs are complete. He said the second phase of the Dawson Smith water line project will begin in the next week. He said that Berry had contacted him about a sewer issue and wanted to make sure that the council and the community knows that he encourages them if there is a problem to contact him or the water/sewer office.

Berry thanked Jackson for checking on that issue.

Dan Thurston reported on the hiring process by saying that 3 conditional offers of employment have been issued and the candidates are going for their physical and psychological exams and this is usually a 3-4 week process to get the results and then hopefully by mid-June they will be hired. He also reported that Vendor/Peddler permit ordinance that was passed seems to be working well.

Welch reported for Horton that he along with the State Fire Marshall's Office are investigating 2 suspected arson fires in our community over the last week or so. He said he will report on those at another time.

BILLS ON THIRD READING-None

BILLS ON SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-5 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADISON, INDIANA ESTABLISHING A FOUR-WAY STOP FOR TRAFFIC AT THE INTERSECTION OF WEST STREET AND FIRST STREET

Jones was the sponsor of this ordinance.

Henderson stated that he thinks this four-way stop is very important.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Kellems thanked all those that were involved in the primary election. He said it was inspiring to see so much activism. He also stated that results indicate that the people are in charge. He said we are not their bosses they are ours. He also indicated that he was pleased with the results.

Stephen DeLorenzo and Zach Ricketts of Digital Dreams and WKM News said on April 15, 2014, at the Cable Advisory Board Meeting, an agreement was reached to air WKM News Reports with the stipulation that WKM News would allow commercials on its programming and WKM News has not charged a single customer to air their commercials on TV 15. The vote was unanimous to allow WKM News to air for two months with commercials except for the popular show Rumors. DeLorenzo stated that he is on the Cable Advisory Board and he abstained from voting on any issue with WKM News. DeLorenzo stated that he has since turned in his resignation from the Cable Advisory Board. He said that he received a letter from the Channel 15 station manager stating that under the direction of Dan Grady, the president, he was pulling WKM week in review. He stated that Grady had told him that a very vocal board member had received calls from council members that said they didn't think the information on WKM News was appropriate for Channel 15. He said the Grady then called the vice-president and the decision to allow WKM News to air on Channel 15 was reversed. He said Mayor Welch requested that the board have a special meeting that would allow all members to vote on the matter. DeLorenzo stated that they came before the council because they had been told that it was council members that originally had concern about the content of their programming.

Lee stated he is on the Cable Advisory Board and they had a very lengthy discussion in reference to this. He said that he thinks the special meeting will allow a decision to be made.

Kellems stated he wasn't aware of any council members that raised concerns. He said Channel 15 is a public access channel that for public information, non-political, no points of view, not pushed pro or con and that we need to maximize the ability of people to see and to hear. He said anything other than that needs to be separate.

Berry stated that he watched some of the programming and he hasn't seen anything that he thinks is inappropriate. He asked if examples were given of what was inappropriate.

Ricketts stated that the program Rumors that calls out both sides of an issue and TV 15 didn't want to take part in that.

DeLorenzo said that they do call out members of the community by name and asked them to come on the show to discuss issues that are rumored in the community and they felt that was not inappropriate.

Berry asked if they would use a disclaimer on their show.

DeLorenzo stated that was the agreement with TV 15.

Berry stated that he doesn't see anything wrong with it.

Kellems stated as long as no public dollars are used.

Henderson stated that it is a fine line, he wasn't even sure that show was on TV 15. He said that we love your youth and vigor and he thinks surely there is a way to work this out.

DeLorenzo stated there have not been any public dollars spent on their show. He said they would love to partner with the City and Channel 15.

Larry Henry a member of the Public Service Video Board said the reason that the programming was originally pulled was a conflict of interest. He said there was a commercial that ran supporting voting for the school referendum. He said a meeting was held earlier in the year and it was decided that the only political things that would run were slides. He said that Digital Dreams works for Madison Consolidated Schools and there is a relationship there where money passed hands and that is a conflict of interest. This is his main concern. He requested, from the City, a copy of the form signed for conflict of interest and ethics.

Kellems said that he feels more information is better. Through more information you tend to arrive at something closer to the truth. He is totally in favor of making engagement in local government easier for the average person. He said the line is drawn when public money is being used that promotes a particular view, especially when there is an election involved.

Henry said that no one should be called while on air, not knowing who is calling, and be ridiculed.

DeLorenzo stated that they do record the high school graduation, but the school does not pay them for it, the DVD's are sold to students and parents. He said that a portion of the money they make is donated back to the school for allowing them to record the graduation. He also said that they did identify who they were when the call Henry mentioned was made.

Welch said he told Dan Grady that his only issue was 3 members out of 9 members should not be able to change a decision previously made by the board and suggested that a meeting should be called to hear from the entire board.

Berry said he hopes we can learn from this experience and that we can move forward.

Lee stated that the board has been looking for ways to generate more money because government entities have helped them by allowing the fees to have meetings televised raised. He said they are in the process now of trying to raise enough money that if there is a breakdown in equipment, that they would not be discontinued. He said the reason they made a verbal agreement was to see what WKM was going to put on. He asked Dennis Crank about an interview that he saw on Channel 15 with people that were pro bond issue and wanted to know if he interviewed people that were against the bond.

Crank stated that he did not because the interview was set up as informational, not as a pro bond issue. He said an attempt was made to get someone with opposing information, but no one came forward.

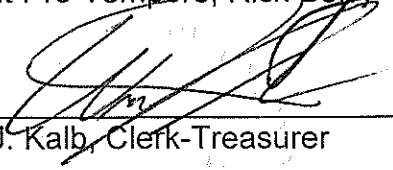
Robin Henderson 614 E. Main Street-stated he was charged to put ads on TV15 and he feels WKM should be charged too. He feels WKM is very political, no matter what they call it.

Rick Ruess stated TV 15 has been more than fair to his organization.

Next meeting Wednesday May 20, 2014 at 5:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Berry, seconded by Backus. All in favor, motion carries (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

APPROVED: 
President Pro-Tempore, Rick Berry


William J. Kalb, Clerk-Treasurer